

A Funding Opportunity for Water Quality Nonpoint Source Projects

November 2008

Project funding. Are you faced with a water quality nonpoint source (NPS) problem and want to improve or eliminate it, but you require funding to correct the problem? If so, then consider applying for a low-interest loan from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Find out if your project will qualify for a state revolving fund loan by calling one of the DEQ contacts, or go to: http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/permits_forms.cfm, fill out the nonpoint source letter of interest and submit to DEQ by January 16, 2009.

Does your project qualify for a low-interest DEQ SRF loan?

The low-interest state revolving fund (SRF) loans can be used to help project sponsors design and complete all phases of a project aimed at eliminating or reducing water pollution resulting from nonpoint sources (NPS) of contamination. Several examples of water quality NPS projects that could be funded by an SRF loan include: purchase of direct seed equipment, replacement of gravity flow irrigation with pressurized pivot sprinkler equipment, construction of wetlands to reduce sediment and nutrients in irrigation return water prior to discharging into a stream segment with impaired water quality, or constructing a centralized sewer system for a community to replace failing individual septic systems.

Loans may also be used to meet federal matching fund requirements needed for a project. The standard loan period is 20 years, at interest rates that are lower than commercial market rates.

What is nonpoint source pollution? NPS pollution comprises a majority of all water quality contamination and comes from multiple locations or sources, most frequently coming from land disturbing activities, rainfall or snowmelt runoff. These runoff activities move over and through the ground collecting pesticides, fertilizer, oil, chemicals, sediment, and other natural or human-created pollutants; finally depositing them into lakes, rivers or sources of drinking water. Go to: http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/prog_issues/surface_water/nonpoint.cfm to learn more about NPS pollution.

I'm interested ... What should I do next?

Let *DEQ* know you are interested. Call and discuss the project with a DEQ contact or just fill out and submit a Nonpoint Source Letter of Interest (NPS-LOI) to DEQ. Please fill out the NPS-LOI on-line, print out, sign, make a copy for your files, and mail to DEQ. The NPS-LOI is available at:

http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/permits_forms.cfm. DEQ needs to receive your NPS-LOI form by **January 16, 2009**.

DEQ then reviews each project for which an NPS-LOI is received, and ranks them comparatively according to the following three criteria:

- severity of the water quality problem(s)
- size and extent of area affected by the problem(s)
- the project sponsor's "readiness to proceed" with construction of the project

Does every project automatically receive funding?

Unfortunately, no. DEQ has limited funding available. In order to fairly distribute the available funding to eligible projects with the most critical public health or water quality issues, all qualifying projects throughout the state go through the same ranking process using the three criteria listed above.

DEQ Contacts:

Dave Pisarski, NPS Program Coordinator	208-373-0464
Carol Garrison, Loan Officer	208-373-0577
Tim Wendland, Loan Manager	208-373-0439

Spread the word... Please share this information with other parties you know who might be interested in pursuing financial assistance from DEQ to address a water quality NPS problem. If you have questions about the SRF loan program, please call one of the DEQ staff contacts or go to: http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/assist_business/pwms/construction_loans.cfm.

Look for this link:



Sign up
for E-mail Up-
dates



Questions about email updates?

Contact DEQ's Webmaster at: webmaster@deq.idaho.gov